

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, RH
SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: PLENARY VOTING ON RHODESIA ITEM, DECEMBER 20

1. GENERAL RHODESIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT
A VOTE, AS IN FOURTH COMMITTEE.

2. AMBASSADOR SHERER DELIVERED US EXPLANATION OF VOTE,
WHICH FOLLOWS, PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
RHODESIAN SANCTIONS, BY VOTE OF 124-0-7 (US). (COMMITTEE IV
VOTING WAS 121-1(US)-6.)

QUOTE

MR. PRESIDENT,
WHILE THE UNITED STATES VOTED "NO" IN THE
FOURTH COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CONCERNING
RHODESIAN SANCTIONS, WE SHALL ABSTAIN IN PLENARY,

WE HAVE CHANGED OUR VOTE FROM COMMITTEE TO
PLENARY SO THAT OUR POSITION CONCERNING RHODESIAN
SANCTIONS NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD IN ANY WAY, EITHER
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BY THE SMITH REGIME OR BY THOSE WITH WHOM
WE SHARE THE DEEP CONVICTION THAT MAJORITY RULE
MUST AND WILL PREVAIL IN THE INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE,
THERE IS NO CHANGE WHATSOEVER IN THE AMERICAN
GOVERNMENT'S STRONG SUPPORT OF THE UN SANCTIONS
AGAINST RHODESIA.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE WISH TO MAKE IT EMPHATICALLY CLEAR, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT IN THIS RESOLUTION THE ARBITRARY AND UNFAIR SINGLING OUT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR CONDEMNATION -- A SINGLING OUT WHICH RESULTED FROM UNITED STATES HONESTY IN REPORTING SANCTIONS VIOLATIONS. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT MANY OTHER COUNTRIES INDULGE IN VIOLATIONS BUT DO NOT REPORT THEM. WE REJECT THIS APPLICATION OF A DOUBLE STANDARD.

AS EVERYONE HERE PRESENT IS AWARE, PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ARE EXERTING EVERY EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS ALSO PETTY AND UNJUST FOR THIS ASSEMBLY TO CRITICIZE THE UNITED STATES ALONE FOR SANCTIONS VIOLATIONS. FURTHER, SO THAT THERE NEVER AGAIN WILL BE ANY MISUNDERSTANDING, THE UNITED STATES PUTS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NOTICE THAT ANY RESOLUTION IN THE FUTURE WHICH SPECIFICALLY CONTAINS A CONDEMNATION OF THE UNITED STATES WILL RECEIVE OUR NEGATIVE VOTE. UNQUOTE
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